

NorCal Group 5 News

News For All NorCal CAP Members

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Commander's Corner

Maj. Dennis Parham, Commander

October 1, 2002, marks the beginning of a new year for Civil Air Patrol. Not a new calendar year but a new fiscal year. The Air Force fiscal year runs from 1 October until 30 September and because their financial health coincides in many ways to ours, I thought it would be appropriate to talk about things financial here. Financial health is always a major topic for CAP members because we get so little money from outside sources. This causes us to become involved in fund raising efforts or take what is needed from our own pockets. Regardless of the source of our income, we have a very important mandate to ensure that our finances are properly and legally tracked.

Tracking your unit's money...properly is very important

Some of you may have attended the class on using Quicken software presented by Jennifer Brenner at Travis AFB on 28 Sep 02. If you did then you know how important using this software is to our overall operation. Quicken is a very easy way to load and track your unit's money and then be able to provide a proper report at the push of a button. Tracking your unit's money and accounting for it properly is very important. Improper accounting of unit funds is one of two things that

will get you thrown in jail if it's bad enough. And the reports? They don't just disappear into a black hole never to be seen again. The data that you provide in your reports are



combined with other data at Group, Wing, and Region level to then be sent to National Headquarters. National Headquarters then uses that information to talk to Air Force about how much money we need in the next fiscal year. It is a bit like the old song.... "the foot bone's connected to the leg bone, the leg bone's connected to the thigh bone....." and so forth. Continuity must be maintained through our reporting system to provide an accurate picture of our financial health to National Headquarters. We all like to get the goodies that cost money; radios, vehicles, airplanes, permanent real estate... the list is almost endless. The secret to getting these goodies is to do all you can to ensure the financial health of your unit and provide proper and accurate reporting, using the Quicken software, when it is due.

Semper vigilans!

Winter Safety

Maj. Dennis Parham, Commander

As we enter the Fall driving season it is very important to think about the kinds of dangers that may appear during the next 5 or 6 months.

Everyone thinks about the obvious weather conditions that come with the season; rain, snow, icing on some roads. But there is a killer combination I want to bring to your attention. That is low visibility, lack of attention and pedestrians.

It seems that hit and run accidents and those involving pedestrians is on the rise. Many of those have been caused by drunk drivers but some have been involving folks like you and me. Someone who is otherwise a good safe driver who just happened to be momentarily distracted and struck and injured, or

killed, someone. Add to that equation low visibility, inclement weather, and the trend of today's young folks to just pop out into the street and stroll across just anywhere presents a recipe for disaster.

Many of us take for granted the fact that we drive cars and don't think twice about how they can become deadly weapons in a split second. Remember that you are moving a couple tons of steel down the road with each tire only contacting a very small area of the street's surface. Keep distractions like coffee, cell phones, radio, and conversation to a minimum. Focus on the task at hand and don't let your attention stray. The life you save may be your own!

Prayer is a Priceless Gift

Maj. George Dawson, Chaplain

Man is a religious creature by nature. In every culture with any kind of recorded history we find expressions of religious belief and practice. An integral part of any religious belief is the practice of prayer. Whether a person is Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or some other grouping, prayer is part of the daily observance.

In our great **"land of the free and the home of the brave,"** we are very tolerant and accepting of all faiths. This holds true in our military and Civil Air Patrol as well. My job as a Chaplain in CAP is to provide what ever assistance I can to any one whenever they express a need. I am commissioned to be a representative of God in all situations, and to minister to people of all faiths without proselytizing, but not denying my own faith traditions. Although we may not all be of the same religious persuasion, we all have spiritual needs.

I see prayer as a means to address our spiritual and physical needs in life. Prayer is the petitioning of a Supreme Being, a Power outside of ourselves. By it we find encouragement, especially when someone we respect says that they are praying for us. We start each Group 5 Staff meeting with a prayer. I believe it sets a good tone for the rest of our time together. I recommend it for all our functions. If a Squadron does not have a Chaplain, a visiting clergy from the community could be invited. Most would welcome an opportunity to help out in this way.

Contribute to the NorCal Group 5 Newsletter

We are interested in receiving articles from all Units on topics that you feel will be of interest to all Group 5 members.

You may submit articles and pictures (if available) either electronically or by regular mail. Electronic formats for articles should be in Microsoft Word format, or compatible. Electronic photo submissions should be sent in JPG format. Send electronic submissions to Steve Taylor, Group 5 Public Affairs Officer at SJTEntrprs@aol.com.

If by regular mail, send photos in a protected envelope and provide your name and address for return. Mail documents to Steve Taylor, Public Affairs Officer, at the Group 5 Headquarters address.



Prayer is helpful in times of illness and great spiritual and physical uncertainty for it brings a sense of calm to our spirits. It gives us a way to express our faith in the goodness of our Creator, and to seek that extra measure of strength for the moments of stress that come upon us all.

There is a story in the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament in the Christian tradition, about a prophet named Jonah. He was trying to run away from an assignment he didn't want to accept and found himself in a boat in the midst of a fierce storm. He tried to ignore the problem by hiding and sleeping, but the crew of the boat woke him up and wanted to know why he was not praying to his god for help as they were.

The point here is that when we reach the end of our rope, prayer is that "Priceless Gift" that is available to anyone and everyone. Try it. It really does work.

The Group 5 Bonanza Face-Lift

1Lt. Bill Slavensky, Aircraft Manager for N3173W

For the Group 5 pilots who have been wanting to fly the Bonanza it will be in repairs through November 15th. The aircraft is in for the interior replacement and should be completed by the 5th of October. Then the aircraft rolls right into the radio shop, and if this goes well it goes in for paint on the 28th of October for another 3 weeks. Here's hoping we don't encounter too many of Murphy's Laws.

Coming Events

October 18-20
California Wing Conference
Santa Maria

November 4
Monthly Group 5 Staff Meeting
Group 5 Headquarters

November 23-24
SLS & CLC
Leemore NAS

December 2
Monthly Group 5 Staff Meeting
Group 5 Headquarters

Cadet Solos Hot Air Balloon

2Lt. Steve Taylor, Public Affairs

It was a beautiful day for flying. Blue skies, calm wind, crisp air. An eager young man was about to embark on what we all anticipate as we begin flight training – that first solo flight. But this was to be even more special – soloing a hot air balloon!

With friends, family, and his instructor anxiously watching, Cadet Kyle Miller launched his balloon from Yuba county Airport for a flawless 45-minute flight into the wild blue. Upon landing Kyle literally lost the shirt off his back as his instructor presented him with the traditional "logbook" entry on his t-shirt.

Kyle will be receiving his balloon license next year. Congratulations Kyle!

Group 5 Staff

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Commander

Capt. David Strannard
Deputy Commander
Counter-Narcotics
Operations
Emergency Services

LtCol. John Ching
Administration

Maj. George Dawson
Chaplain

2Lt. Curtis Hensley
Logistics Officer

Capt. Jim Szykowny
Cadet Programs

LtCol. Charles Starr
Communications

2Lt. Samuel Jones
Historian

Maj. Harry Van Rintel
Inspector General

Maj. Marie Whaley
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2Lt. Daryl Kielich
Aircraft Maintenance Officer

1Lt. Bill Slavensky
Aircraft Maintenance Officer

1Lt. Todd Sprague
Glider Program Officer

1Lt. Mark Naber
Management Information Officer

2Lt Steve Taylor
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